Appl. No. 10/044,484
Amdt. dated October 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2005

PATENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.　(Previously Presented): A method of extracting related information from electronic files, wherein each file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data, the method comprising:

a)　in response to a user input that designates at least one field as a key segment, wherein a key segment comprises a field having pre-populated data and wherein the key segment field is common to each of a plurality of the records, comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of a first file to data in a related key segment of each record of a second file;

b)　upon each occurrence of a match of data in the key segment of a record in the first file to data in the related key segment of a record in the second file, creating a record in a temporary electronic file, wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the;

c)　selecting data from the temporary file; and

d)　outputting the selected data.

2.　(Original): The method recited in claim 1, further comprising thereafter deleting the temporary file.

3.　(Original): The method recited in claim 1, further comprising:

for additional files, repeating steps a), b) and c) using an additional file as the first file and the temporary file as the second file.

4.　(Original): The method recited in claim 1, wherein the first file is stored in electronic form on magnetic tape.

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5. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, wherein the first file is stored in electronic form on media selected from a group consisting of solid state memory, magnetic disk memory, and optical memory.

6. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, further comprising sorting the records of the first file based on data contained in the key segment.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein a record of the temporary file created upon a match of data between records in the first and second files contains less than all of the data from the matching records of the first and second files.

8. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting data from the records of the temporary file based in part on logic operators.

9. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the logic operators are selected from a group consisting of less than, greater than, equal to, not-equal-to, less-than-or-equal-to, greater-than-or-equal-to, in and not in.

10. (Previously Presented): A system for extracting related information from electronic files, comprising:

a processor;

a storage device;

an output device;

a first electronic file stored on the storage device, wherein the first electronic file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data; and

a second electronic file stored on the storage device, wherein the second electronic file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data;

wherein the processor is configured to respond to an input that designates at least one field as a key segment by comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of the

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first file to data in a related key segment of each record of the second file, wherein a key segment comprises a field having pre-populated data and wherein the key segment field is common to each of a plurality of the records;

wherein the processor is further configured such that upon each occurrence of a match of data in the key segment of a record in the first file to data in the related key segment of a record in the second file, the processor causes a record in a temporary electronic file to be created, wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the first and second files; and

wherein the processor is further configured to select data from the temporary file and output the data to the output device.

11.　(Original):　The system of claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to thereafter delete the temporary file.

12.　(Original):　The system of claim 10, wherein the first file is stored on the storage device on magnetic tape.

13.　(Original):　The system of claim 10, wherein the first file is stored on the storage device on media selected from a group consisting of solid state memory, magnetic disk memory, and optical memory.

14.　(Original):　The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further configured to sort the records of the first file based on data contained in the key segment.

15.　(Original):　The system of claim 10, wherein a record of the temporary file created upon a match of data between records in the first and second files contains less than all of the data from the records of the first and second files.

16.　(Original):　The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further configured to select data from records of the temporary file based in part on logic operators.

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17.　(Original):　The system of claim 16, wherein the logic operators are selected from a group consisting of less than, greater than, equal to, not-equal-to, less-than-or-equal-to, greater-than-or-equal-to, in and not in.

18.　(Previously Presented):　A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

a)　receiving instructions identifying two or more electronic files from which to extract related information, wherein each file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data;

b)　receiving instructions that designate at least one field in the first file to be a key segment and that designate at least one field in the second file to be a related key segment, wherein a key segment comprises a field having pre-populated data and wherein the key segment field is common to each of a plurality of the records;

c)　comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of the first file to data contained in the related key segment of each record of the second file;

d)　upon each occurrence of a match of data in the key segment of a record in the first file to data in the related key segment of a record in the second file, creating a record in a temporary electronic file, wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the first and second files;

e)　receiving instructions identifying data to be selected from the temporary file;

f)　selecting the data from the temporary file; and

g)　outputting the data.

19.　(Original):　The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes thereafter deleting the temporary file.

20.　(Original):　The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes:

for additional files, repeating steps a), b), c) and d) using an additional file as the first file and the temporary file as the second file.

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21.   (Original): The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes sorting the records of the first file based on data contained in the key segment.

22.   (Original): The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes selecting data from records of the temporary file based in part on logic operators.

23.   (Original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the logic operators are selected from a group consisting of less than, greater than, equal to, not-equal-to, less-than-or-equal-to, greater-than-or-equal-to, in and not in.

24.   (Canceled)